OUR SUNDAY VISITOR

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A Short Chat With Many Americans---by the Editor

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John I, 1, ff.). It is plain from this declaration of St. John that "the Word" Who was made flesh, was the eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the ever-blessed Trinity. Great as is this wonder of the wisdom of God which devised it, of the goodness of God which decreed it, of the power of God which executed it, we discover it to be a long-expected event, when we read the Old Testament or the history of the Hebrew people from Abraham's time down.

Degrading to the Godhead as seems to be His act of becoming Incarnate, is it not wonderfully congruous and worthy of God? The great design God had in creating man must not be wholly frustrated; human souls, spiritual and immortal, like unto God, must not be left outside the pale of salvation. If condign atonement must be made to the Blessed Trinity for mankind's sin, only a God can make it. Then, the greater the condescension on the part of God, the greater, evidently, must be His love for man—and man should know the extent of God's love: "God so loved the world as to give His only-begotten Son."

Restoration was the principal purpose of the Incarnation. St. Paul expresses what is meant by this when he says (Eph. I, 5-10): "Who hath predestinated us unto the adoption of children through Jesus Christ unto Himself: according to the purpose of His will: . . . . In the dispensation of the fulness of times, to re-establish all things in Christ that are in heaven and on earth, in Him."

The union of the Son of God with human nature will never be dissolved. Our soul and body are intimately united, but the union is broken at death; we are united to God when our souls are in the state of grace, but this union is severed by sin. Christ will be the God-man and man-God forever. This union of the divinity with the created nature born of Mary is called by theologians the "hypostatic union."

How comforting the assurance that God loves *me* with an infinite love; that for me and my salvation He became man! How much are they deprived of who believe not! Ye professed infidels and agnostics, imitate the humility of Him Whom we acknowledge to be your God, and pray for a little ray of supernatural light. Like the magi, follow His star, and you will experience how easy it is "to fall down and adore Him."

We Cannot Dissociate From Christ His Virgin Mother

BEHOLD a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel,—God with us." That the virgin of whom the prophet speaks is no other than the Blessed Virgin Mary is evident from the fact that he calls Him Whom she shall conceive and bear, Emmanuel, a name proper to the divine Redeemer. St. Matthew emphatically applies this prophecy to Mary by concluding the narration of the wonderful Incarnation of Christ, with these words: "Now all this was done, that the word might be fulfilled which the Lord spoke by the prophet."

It is evident that this prophecy should not be taken in the sense that Mary was a virgin only until the time when she conceived the Son of God. This would have been nothing extraordinary, such as, according to the words of the prophet, our Lord intended to accomplish. But the prophecy must be understood in the sense that Mary conceived as a virgin, or in other words, that her virginity was not sullied by her conception of the Son of God.

Mary loved chastity above all things, and God who delights to dwell in pure souls highly favored her in this way, namely, that she was not only chosen to become the Mother of God, but also she obtained the extraordinary grace and privilege of uniting the joys of maternity with the honor of virginity.

As a virgin she conceived, and as a virgin she brought forth the Son of God. The Fathers of the Church explain this truth in the clearest words. It was meet that God should be born of a virgin when He condescended to become a man. As the rays of the sun penetrate glass and yet do not break or injure it in any way, so Christ, the Sun of Justice, was born of Mary, without violating her virginity. As Christ Himself after His resurrection entered through the closed doors and appeared in the midst of His disciples, and as He came forth from the tomb that was securely closed, so He came forth from the Immaculate Virgin without violating her virginity.

Americans Are Well Fed, But Do Not Receive Nourishment

By Alfred W. McCann.

XI.

THE NEGLECTED CHILD OF 1912—THE SOLDIER OF 1918.

WE have learned with shocking surprise that in the last mortality statistics issued by the Census Director at Washington, there were reported in the United States for one year the deaths of 400,000 children under ten years of age. The record of these deaths was compiled in what is known as the "registration area," which includes only about 65 per cent of the total population of the United States. The total deaths in the "registration area" the year before the war, 1913, were 890,848, of which all but 70,644 were of white persons. The "registration area" covered few Southern states in which the Negro population is large. It is thus seen that the high mortality record of the Negroes has in no manner affected these figures, which would be still larger if the Negro population were taken into consideration, or if the entire country were reported upon instead of but two-thirds of it.

Lamenting the fatalities of war we are unmindful that during the past four years, while men on the battlefields of Europe were being killed by fire and gas, 1,500,000 children under ten years of age were dying at home in the United States.

Because they did not die in a massacre, their deaths failed to rouse the nation.

When the Titanic and the Lusitania went down with a few more than two thousand souls aboard, the cities of civilization put on the cloak of grief. A few thousand perished, but they perished in a heap.

In one instance a block of ice, in another an enemy was responsible.

Following both catastrophes every newspaper in the United States poured into the streets millions of first-page lamentations. Men were dazed because these tragedies came quick and sudden.

The slow-moving, deadlier peril that walks among their children by day and lies with them at night arouses no man.

As long ago as 1912 the United States Bureau of Education prepared a bulletin warning us that here in our own peaceful cities of America

400,000 children had organic disease.
1,000,000 children had tuberculosis.
1,000,000 children had spinal curvature.
1,000,000 children had defective hearing.
4,000,000 children were suffering from malnutrition.

(Continued on Page Four)

Some Wholesome Christmas Reflections; The Infant God and the Holy Eucharist

MY turn near Him I've taken,
Sweet Babe, so oft forsaken;
May He my senses waken,
To hear His voice divine!

My love shall here be plighted,
My heart to His united,
And from It flames be lighted,
To burn the dross from mine.
—Blessed Margaret Mary.

"This day is born to you a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling-clothes and laid in a manger." In these words did the angel announce to the shepherds on the mountain the great news of the birth of the Son of God become man.

Come, let us go to Bethlehem, to the House of Bread, the Eucharistic Tabernacle. Let us by faith raise the linens of the Sacred Species that cover the Infant God. Let us enter into His Heart, whose palpitations cause His breast to heave and send to His gracious countenance the brilliant hues of His life-blood, as Mary lays Him in the crib.

It is the Heart of a victim, for it is the Heart of Him Who, St. Paul says: "Emptied Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross."

But It is at the same time the Heart of a perfect man, of the most perfect of all men, of the Head of humanity from all time; for this Heart is, even under Its appearance of feebleness and in Its bonds of impotence, in full possession of intellectual and moral life, of supernatural and divine life in all their plenitude of intensity and interior action. The Beatific Vision fills It with light, love, holiness, power, and joy; and if It compresses in unfathomable depths the actual joy of Its infinite gifts, It preserves the incontestable possession of them, It employs and utilizes their dominion. As It is, by virtue of the exquisite communications of the Divinity, the Head of all mankind, It rules and sanctifies them, and offers to God in their name the homage of a religion absolutely perfect and worthy of Him. Priest from the moment of the Incarnation, and the only Priest for eternity, It exercises Its sublime and necessary function for the Father's glory and the profit of the world: "But to the Son: Thou hast loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore, God, Thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows."

But still more, it is the Heart of the only Son of God! Although formed only Son of God. The Father ceases not to say to Him in the annihilations of the Crib, as He said to Him in the splendor of His glory: "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee!" I am, I shall ever be His Father, He will always be My Son: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to me a Son."

Eternal glory leaving,
For our poor hearts retrieving,
And triumph there achieving,
He makes in them His throne.
To earth He comes a stranger,
A Babe, His crib a manger,
To rescue us from danger,
To claim us for His own.

Because It is personally united to the Eternal Word; because It is on that account the abode of predilection of the Most Holy Trinity, it cannot be but that the Heart of the Infant-God should be beatified in Its substance, clothed with definite glory, filled with all the joys of the Vision, both for Itself and for all the members of which It is the supernatural Motor and the Furnace of life.

The angel announced it to the shepherds as the great joy come down from heaven: "I bring you good tidings of great joy." He is so truly the image and the sweetness of God that whoever beholds Him, whether in His Crib or in the Temple, as did Anna the prophetess, and the High-Priest Simeon, feels his soul cheered and dilated; he is ravished, he exults with joy: "The goodness and kindness of God our Savior appeared."

Ah! it is because He is the personal Love of God, incarnated by pure love, in order to perform the work of love. Love presses Him and gushes from His Heart under every form. "For God so loved the world as to give His only-begotten Son." Let us, then, give thanks to God for the unspeakable gift of this Child Who is our Savior, Who lies before us with all the graces of salvation, and Who gives Himself to us for our everlasting gain.

What joy, what peace and pleasure!
What bliss beyond all measure!
I find in Him, my Treasure,
The Bridegroom of my soul!
My Portion! naught shall ever
My heart's affections sever
From Him—And sin?—Ah, never
Shall it my will control!

The wintry blast of this December night, which chills His members in spite of the swaddling-bands in which His Mother so carefully wraps Him, and the warm breath of the ox and the ass, more compassionate than the inhabitants of Bethlehem; the poverty of this abandoned stable to which the indifference of His fellow-citizens has relegated Him; the exile in a hostile country to which He will soon have to submit; the tears that fall from His innocent eyes at sight of the painful visions that rise up in the distance; the horrible massacre of the children of Bethlehem and its neighborhood, which filled their mothers with inconsolable sorrow—all this proclaims her Child the victim announced to Mary by the angel "to save the world from its sins."

Although He had to wait thirty-three years before being immolated, before His sacrifice was exteriorly consummated, yet from His very birth the Infant-God was slain and sacrificed in His Heart. The decree of Divine Justice was that the salvation of guilty man, powerless to redeem himself, should be at the price of the death of an innocent man. When the will of God rejected all other sacrifices, the Word offered Himself, and He planted in the midst of His Heart this decree more penetrating than all the swords of immolation: "And Thy law is in the midst of My Heart!" He desires only this will of His Father, and it is to accomplish it that He has become incarnate: "Behold, I come that I should do Thy will!" However terrible and bloody it may be, Jesus already accomplishes it by giving Himself up to it without a word of contradiction.

But in this fearful will to which, lying powerless in His Crib, He submits, there are all the unrecognized rights of God, of His goodness, His holiness, and His justice. There are, consequently, all the wrath, all the vengeance of God. There are all the sins, all the baseness of man, all the torments, the ignominy, the abandonment of the Passion. There are all the sorrows of His well-beloved Mother and, lastly, for the damned the utter uselessness of His immense sufferings. Thus does this Child begin to experience in His Heart, even in the Crib, the frightful agony under the crushing weight of which He sweat blood in the Garden.

Yes, from this moment, although repressing the outward manifestation of it, "He began to grow sorrowful and to be sad." The grotto of Bethlehem is an inhospitable to Him as that of Gethsemani; the Crib in which He is lying in His helplessness as hard as the wood of the Cross or the nails that fastened Him to it. From the first moment of His life on earth He felt in His heart only sorrow and opprobrium: "My Heart hath expected reproach and misery!"

It is particularly hard to see a child suffer. Its innocence and infantine charms call for joy and happiness without a care. Shall we not, then, pity the Infant-God who, later on, in the Sacrament, in which He continues His Passion as He anticipated it at Bethlehem, showed to Blessed Margaret Mary "His Heart surrounded by a crown of thorns, a gaping wound in the centre, and surrounded by a Cross. He revealed to her that, from the first moment of His Incarnation, all His torments had been present before Him, and it was from that moment that the Cross had been, as it were planted in His Heart. He told her that He accepted at that moment all the sorrows, all the humiliations that He was to suffer in His mortal life, and even the outrages to which His love for man would expose Him in the Blessed Sacrament till the end of the world."

How could I live without Him?
For heaven is all about Him.
Oh, never shall I doubt Him,
Though life be dark and cold!
But whereso'er He leadeth,
Where famished souls He feedeth,
Where on the Cross He bleedeth,
My station near Him hold.

(Continued on Page Four)

There Could be No Atonement Had God Not Become Man

By Martin J. Scott, S.J.

THE Incarnation and the Trinity are the fundamental mysteries of the Catholic Faith. On these two everything else rests. If there is no Trinity, then there is no redemption by the Second Person of the Trinity. If there is no Incarnation, there is no atonement by Jesus Christ, the God-man.

The word Incarnation is derived from the two Latin words in and caro, which mean in the flesh. As applied to the Son of God, they signify His existence in the flesh, that is, His becoming man. This is a stupendous mystery, as difficult of comprehension as the Trinity. How the infinite God became finite man, yet remained God, is something we do not understand. It was so difficult of apprehension for the Jews, who had a true conception of God, that they could not or would not believe that Christ was God. That was their whole contention. Because He affirmed He was God, they put Him to death.

Jesus realized their difficulty and met it sympathetically. He told them that no man was a witness to his own word, and referred them for proof of His word to His deeds: "The things which I do give testimony of me."

And those Jews who were not influenced by passion recognized His testimony. From the beginning of the world, said they, no man spoke as this man, and no man ever did the things which he does. Thus spoke the multitudes.

On one occasion, Jesus forgave a man his sins. "Who out God can forgive sins," the Scribes and Pharisees exclaimed. Jesus accepted their challenge. True, said He, no one but God can forgive sins, but that you may know that I have the power to forgive sins, that I am indeed God, I shall do something before your eyes which only God can do. And straightway He said to the cripple who was brought to Him on a bed: "Take up thy bed and walk." And the man arose and walked, and all glorified God. This is but one of hundreds of things which Jesus did to show the people that they could trust Him. Once He established His divine power, it was their duty to believe Him.

And the great body of people did believe in Him. But the Scribes and Pharisees, who saw that their sway over the multitude would cease with their acceptance of Jesus as the Messias, used all their power to discredit Him. A dreadful instance of this is in regard to their conduct after the resurrection of Lazarus.

I once said to a distinguished lawyer that, as an example of the bad faith of the Jewish leaders, their attempt to suppress evidence in the case of Lazarus was convincing proof. He asked me in just what way they tried to do so. I informed him that after the resurrection of Lazarus, which was witnessed by hundreds, among whom were many distinguished men of Jerusalem, the Jews called a council. In this council, they debated how they could kill Lazarus so as to destroy the proof of his resurrection. The lawyer exclaimed: "Why, I never saw that in Scripture. If that is so, it is conclusive, for in law the suppression of evidence is the most flagrant criminality." He then asked me to point out the passage in Scripture which recorded the fact. I did so, and he said no greater proof could exist of malicious intent against Christ. (John xii, 10).

In this connection, let me say that the Jews themselves never denied the miracles of Jesus.

It may be asked, why, then, did they not receive Jesus Christ as the Messiah? The reply is that He did not give them what they wanted. They expected a worldly kingdom and a mighty temporal ruler who would exalt their nation above all others. But Christ did not leave heaven and come to this earth to give the fleeting things of this world to man. He came to give eternal life, an eternal kingdom. Hence He said: "My kingdom is not of this world." The Scribes and Pharisees were looking merely to the present. Hence they rejected their greatest good, they renounced Jesus Christ. How many today reject Jesus because He does not give them what they want here!

Converts Tell of Their Happiness in the Catholic Faith

PETER H. BURNETT.

THE convert to the Catholic Faith is conscious that he has embraced a higher grade of faith, has been brought into closer and holier communion with the unseen world, and has adopted a more just and charitable estimate of human veracity. He has taken a step towards the Celestial City, from the low murky valleys of discord, where the fogs or error do love to dwell. He shakes hands with the brethren of every kindred, name, and tongue. He worships with the people of every nation. He joins his prayers with those who speak the varied languages of earth. On every shore, in every land, beneath every sky, and in every city, he meets his brethren of the universal Church. He is at home everywhere, and bows down with the millions who have worshipped, and still worship, at the same altar, and hold the same faith.

But not only so. He looks back over the pages of past history, and ascends by a plain, visible, and unbroken chain to the apostolic day. He has no chasms to leap, no deserts to cross. At every step in this progress he finds the same Old Church—the same faith—the same worship still pre-eminent in the Christian world. He sees the rise and fall of empires and sects; but the same Old Church always pre-eminent. The records of the past are with him. He has the sanction of antiquity. Time tells for him a glorious story. He meets with myriads of brethren all along the slumbering ages. The old martyrs and saints are his brethren. He claims companionship with them. Their memories are beloved by him. And Blandina, the poor slave, but noblest of martyrs, was his sister. And old Ignatius, and Polycarp, and Justin, and Irenaeus, are also his brethren. And she, the humblest of the humble—the purest of the pure—the stainless Virgin Mother of his Lord, whom all generations call "blessed," is revered by him as the noblest of creatures. And the old apostles—the noble and the true—the holy and the just—the despised and persecuted—they, too, are his brethren. In short, the saints and martyrs of the olden time, held the same faith, worshipped at the same altar, and used the same form of worship that he does. He venerates and loves their memory, admires their virtues, calls them brethren, and asks their prayers in heaven. He has no accusations to bring against them—no crimes to lay to their charge.

Pray For His Rebirth in the Hearts of Nations

By Rev. Edward J. Matthews.

AS the anniversary of the birth of our Redeemer approaches, how impatiently we await its coming! How anxious we are for the brief weeks of Advent to pass! And yet, the longing for the anniversary is but a faint image of the anxious waiting for the fact. For us the "Prince of Peace" has come, the work of redemption is complete—"it is consummated." Though we cry out anew, "Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior," we are but seeking a spiritual rebirth in our hearts. The prophet Isaias was voicing and epitomizing the four thousand years of burning desire, of praying, of supplicating, of sighing. We who have seen the whole face of the earth renewed, who have heard the "good tidings" again and again, can hardly appreciate the deep, heartfelt prayers of the patriarchs and prophets.

Today, sad to say, two thousand years after the coming of Christ, the world again sorely needs a rebirth of the same Redeemer, and, in its consciousness, a revival of His principles. We have begun to forget Him. Rationalism has asked what is meant by an order superior to human reason. A reformation, so-called, has misinterpreted the lesson of redemption and led its followers by millions into error and heresy. The result was the terrible world-war—brother fighting against brother. Again, St. John the Baptist might cry "There hath stood One in the midst of you whom you know not."

As in the dawn of the world's history, God Himself promised the Deliverer to quell and conquer "the serpent," and succeeding ages watched, with eager longing, for His Advent, we must pray for His rebirth in the hearts of nations.

Children's School and Playground

CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK.

15 S. 3d of Advent.—St. Valerian.
16 M. St. Eusebius.
17 T. St. Lazarus.
18 W. Ember Day—St. Auxentius.
19 Th. St. Nemesion.
20 F. Ember Day.—Vigil.—St. Dominic.
21 S. Ember Day.—St. Thomas.

Learn the Answers to the Questions which follow; also learn the meaning of terms frequently used in connection with our religion.

Can you quote passages of Sacred Scripture indicating that Mary was to be preserved from Original Sin?

When was the belief in the Immaculate Conception proclaimed a dogma?

Did this proclamation change the universal belief of the people?

What is meant by a dogma or an article of belief?

Catechetical Instructions

By Rev. R. E. K.

What, then, is the reason for the existence of evil? It is for the good of mankind. God draws good out of evil. It was the greatest evil, physically speaking, to subject Christ, the Son of God, to the indignity of being denied, betrayed with a kiss, blindfolded, spat upon, struck, jeered, scourged, mocked, crowned with thorns, crushed to the ground with the cross and nailed on the cross to be an object of derision and hatred to the sinful passersby, but the patient Bearer of all this physical evil, according to the will of God, accomplished the salvation of man. Truly a divine atonement, but it required an infinite God to suffer in order that the sin of man's disobedience which was directed against the infinite God, might be remitted. We go back to the Book of Genesis and we read the story of the Brothers of Joseph, who, through jealousy, sold him to the Egyptian ruler. To have been the favored son, the confidant of his father and to be rudely torn from the comforts of home and all that his youthful heart held dear, and to be forced to remain as a vassal, a slave, to an unknown master amidst people who were entirely strange, was indeed a physical evil, but in the designs of God it proved to be a great blessing to Joseph and his brothers. We go back to the hospital ward where a young Spanish soldier lies fuming and fretting because of his wound. We see him daily chafing because he is unable to follow his standard, and in his vain attempt to interest himself he calls for something to read. He wants something light, something interesting. Those in charge bring him the Lives of the Saints. It was the real awakening of that spiritual sense in the person of St. Ignatius of Loyola that made him the wonderful defender of the Faith, the preacher of the word of God and the organizer and the founder of the beloved Jesuit Order. It was a physical wound, it was evil that caused St. Ignatius to turn his eyes inward and to say in spirit the words that Saul of Tarsus said when stricken by the light from above, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" How many have not found that things which seemed difficult to bear, which were in themselves evil, brought about a spiritual resurrection in their own lives? Hence, when we think deeply upon the Providence of God, when he see Him working out the welfare of His creatures, we should place ourselves with confidence under His protecting guidance and in a spirit of resignation accept the trials of daily life and say to Him: "Lord, not as I will but as Thou wilt." In the words of Job who said: "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away: Blessed be the name of the Lord" we should be truly grateful to God for all His blessings and even for the sufferings which it may be our lot to bear.

MOTHER PAYS.

Yes, Mother pays a thousand fold,
Yes, Mother pays her worth untold!
Is there a Mother on this earth
Whose heart is valued at full worth?—
A Mother asks so little pay—
The crumbs of kindness on the way
She counts for payment as her share,
Content to live if we but care.
—Elizabeth A. Voss.

How A Prejudiced Protestant Became A Devoted Catholic

(Continued from Page Three)

testant creed were eliminated, you wouldn't have anything left but worthless shreds. The only elements in the Protestant religion that are worth anything at all, are those that you have borrowed from Catholicism. Then, don't tell us, any more, that you "can't accept Catholic religion," when the only religion you ever did accept, that was worth anything, was Catholic religion. Oh, when will Protestants ever be able to recognize their indebtedness to the Catholic Church for all that is highest and best, even in Protestant religion!

(To be continued.)

EGGS PAID THE PASTOR

Mrs. Lena McBroon, Woodbury, Tenn., writes: "I've got more eggs than I ever did in my life, paid my debts, clothed the children in new dresses, and I paid my pastor his dues. I have money to spare now. 'More Eggs' is the remedy for me. I sold 42½ dozen eggs last week, set four dozen, ate some and had 1½ dozen left."

E. J. Reefer, the poultry expert, discovered the wonderful tonic "More Eggs" that revitalizes the flock and makes the hens work all the time. You need this great egg producer. It means big egg profits for you. Don't delay. Send $1 to E. J. Reefer 1899 Reefer Bldg., Kansas City, Mo., and he will send you a package of "More Eggs" tonic. A million dollar bank guarantees that if you are not absolutely satisfied your dollar will be returned on request. Send a dollar today, or send $2.25 and get 3 regular $1.00 packages on special discount for a full season's supply. Or write to Mr. Reefer for his free poultry book that tells the experience of a man who made a fortune out of poultry. —Adv.

Willie was being measured for his first made-to-order suit of clothes.

"Do you want the shoulders padded, my little man?" inquired the tailor.

"No," said Willie significantly; "pad the pants."

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Same in other bindings ..... 50c, 75c, $1.00, $1.50, $2.00 and $2.50
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We have small statues at 10c, 15c, 25c and 50c in popular Saints. We have paper statuettes, 4 different positions of the Christ Child, at 6 for 25c.

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Americans Are Well Fed, But Do Not Receive Nourishment

(Continued from Page One)

of course, consumed in abundance. It was the average American meal as you shall see from authority much higher than mine, government authority, and it is the average American meal with which we are concerned.

During the afternoon a candy shop down the street received many of the pennies of the little girl. It had existence for the purpose of attracting those pennies. At least twenty-million such pennies are spent each day in the United States by school children.

Thus she feasted between meals on dyed glucose and chemical flavors, with an occasional ice cream soda to add romance to her little life.

Delicate always, anemic and "nervous," she had been treated by the family physician for tonsilitis, acute chores and anemia. At the age of six she underwent an operation for adenoids. Every year among children there are more than 200,000 such operations in the United States.

She had also taken a tonic of iron and manganese. Remember these words, "iron" and "manganese."

On other occasions tonics of strychnia were prescribed.

Her teeth, like those of millions of children, were decayed. Mother was anxious about her, and at times would say, "I wonder if we feed Helen properly." But Aunt Jennie always answered, "Her ills are natural to childhood, and are to be expected. The sooner she has them all the sooner she will be done with them."

Moreover, the neighbors told mother that the less attention she paid to her child's food the better, because people who were always worrying about food had the toughest luck. Here and there a "plump" child was pointed out as a model of what eating "anything and everything" would produce.

The neighbors did not know that water-logged tissues are frequently mistaken for plumpness, or that plumpness has nothing to do with muscle tone, with normal functioning of the glands, with vitality or resistance to disease.

The neighbors did not know that the "plump" child, fed on "anything and everything," succumbs more quickly than the well-fed, muscular but thin child.

Grandmothers and mothers had fed children for ages, and surely they must know a little about their business, so after all little Helen's mother felt that the child would eventually outgrow her poor health. "She just wasn't strong" but "would get strong." It was a comforting thought.

A few weeks after the little party, as Helen was going home from school, she was caught in a rainstorm. Mother changed her clothes promptly upon her arrival home, and gave her hot lemonade.

There was another fever and the doctor was called. When he came he uttered one word: "pneumonia."

We now know, for the Census Director at Washington has told us, that every year in the United States 400,000 children under ten years of age are buried, as little Helen was buried.

Such are the facts. They cannot be disputed.

The apparent cause of the child's death was pneumonia; the real cause was malnutrition, followed by low resistance and inability to fight off the pneumonia.

Man's methods of endowing his children with natural immunity unfortunately involve a side issue of "business expediency." God's methods disclose no such taint. By following the divine hints that lie at his feet man can still have his business without the tragedy on which it is built.

(To be continued)

SERMONETTE.

(By Rev. Wm. Demouy, D. D.)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

"And may the peace of God, which surpasseth all understanding, guard your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus, our Lord" (Philip iv, 7).

Of all things available for the intimate life of man, Peace is the most desirable and the most important. Where it exists, it signifies that things are normal; and where things are normal, where equilibrium is established, happiness results. Man's chief aim, the ineradicable desire of his heart, is happiness.

There can be no happiness without Peace, and exterior contentment may enclose interior discord; hence, in order to know where true happiness dwells, one should be able to see into the profoundest depths of man, and discover whether Peace and Order exist there.

The Peace of God is the Peace that is worth while: It is the only Peace that brings lasting happiness, consolation, and contentment. It conforms to duty well done, responds to the calls of conscience. He, who has not known this Peace of God, has never experienced real happiness, has never felt confidence, nor enjoyed contentment.

In the lives of men, there are surges and rolling waves, because there is absent that Peace of God. It is the only power to calm the raging sea of man's disordered nature, and to dissipate the dark clouds from the sky of his real happiness. It follows the bright light of truth; it walks hand-in-hand with honesty; it dwells in the same place as virtue.

It is often a cause of wonder to us when we read of the peace dwelling in the minds of many in the midst of sorrow, disappointment, temporal loss and ruin; but the spiritual mind searches deeper, and the spiritual eye sees further than the superficial mind and the bodily eye of man. In hearts that are broken, in hopes that are shattered, in goods that are destroyed one who lives in the Peace of God may feel it all keenly in his nature, but in the depths of his soul, he sees the will and the purpose of God's providence, and resignedly yields.

Incompatible with the Peace of God, are sin and its consequences. No one can disobey the commandments, can neglect religious duties, can disregard virtue, and feel peaceful in his soul. All these things are the bursting clouds that rain unhappiness and misery, the thunder that follows the flash of momentary joy, the contamination that results from the disturbance of order.

A PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

Grace E. Scott-Hahn.

For ages at Thy holy feet, Immaculate Conception,
Man's offered Thee the greatest homage e'er to mortal given,
Confessing Thee the Daughter act of the Eternal One,
The Virgin Spouse of the Holy Ghost, the Mother of His Son.
Of heavenly gifts and virtues and "full of grace" must be
The choice, the Holy Temple of the Blessed Trinity.
With Thee are treasured mercies—deposited by Thy Child
To do with as Thou, sweet St. Immanent Mother said.
. . . "Behold Thy child!" these precious words our Savior spake to Thee,
When He gave Thee as our heritage upon Mt. Calvary.
And, since that hour, it has not been known that Thou
To help the vilest, erring one who has come to Thee for aid.
Thy loving Heart thou far has cherished pity toward us all,
We KNOW Thou will incline Thine ear and hearken to our call.
Emboldem by this confidence, kind Mother, see! we kneel
In humble adoration; supplicating Thee to feel
Compassion. . . . Obtain mercy! We are sorrowful—distressed,
O, hear our importunity! Reject not our request!
Since it conforms into God's plan to save souls from despair,
Cast now Thine eyes of pity on us,—hear our heart-felt prayer!
Gird Thou Thine armor about us, Mother, shield us in the strife
'Gainst the evil that would rob our souls of everlasting life.
Dark is life's way, O Mother mild, be Thou the Pillar bright,
That will guide us thru the encircling gloom, unto eternal light.

Integrity never has to seek for recognition; it is ever at hand in the testimonies of a good conscience.

HELPERS IN MISSION WORK.

The following amounts were contributed to the different funds from November 24th to December 5th:

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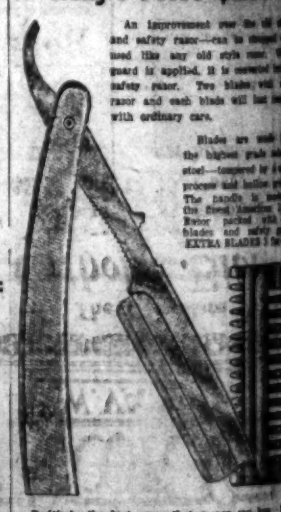
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OW A PREJUDICED PROTESTANT BECAME A DEVOTED CATHOLIC

The Experience of a Minister

(Continued)

much for dogmatics. Now, what morals? Here again Protes- find themselves deeply indebted atholicism, with nothing to pay. e did you get your standard they have never studied serious- carefully for five minutes in eir lives? It is a deplorable fact the average Protestant almost nothing about Catho- I have been amazed, time and at some of the ridiculous ques- that have been put to me by knowing Protestants, about olicism. Even among those who really cultured and intelligent in matters, there is a dense ig- nce about Catholicism that is per- y astounding.

the average Protestant knows Catholics is from the so-called rmation" he has gotten from the literature put out by unscrupu- anti-Catholic agitators, who have intely no regard for the truth. k now from personal observa- and examination. I have heard prominent D. D.'s edify their nce by confidently referring to "Chained Bible," the "Jesuit ," the "Corruption in Convents," "Hostility of Catholicism to ls and Education," the "Wor- of Images and Saints," the s and Ammunition stored in olic basements," the "Civil Al- nce Catholics Owe to the Pope," etc., etc. Now, it is not possible, in the limits of this paper, to re- all these charges; but I assert tively, without fear of contradic- that every one of them is false; I shall be pleased to discuss any hem through the press with any who feels himself called on to ain them. I can be addressed at K. of C. Hall, San Antonio, Tex.

Rev. John F. Noll, LL. D., of Huntington, Indiana, has published a standing offer, for several years, of $1000.00 to any man who will prove any of these charges to be true. Thousands of copies of this challenge have been sent out among anti-Catholic agitators, and yet not one of them has ever yet ventured to accept it. If they knew these charges to be true, why don't they come out, like men, and sustain them, both for the sake of their honor and for the sake of the $1000.00? A wiseacre who "knows it all" ought not to miss a good chance like this to make some easy money! But instead of honorably accepting this plain challenge, these lying scoundrels prefer to lurk in their editorial and ministerial dens and continue to repeat over and over again, these worn-out charges whose falsity has already been exposed, time and again.

As to the matter of personal character, Catholics have nothing to fear from any fair comparison with Protestants. Really, the characters of different people, when compared with one another, are supplementary and complimentary. Where one is strong, another is weak, and vice versa.

All have both their strong points and their weak points. In some points, Protestants in general, perhaps, excel Catholics, while in other points, Catholics excel.

Human nature is the same all over the world, and human character everywhere is defective, in spite of the very best guiding principles. The consequence is that every institution has in it both good people and bad people. Now, what is the only fair test by which to judge of the merits of any institution? The only way to fairly estimate the character of an institution is to judge it by the principles for which it stands, and the effect of these principles when consistently carried out. This is the infallible criterion by which to test the character of any organization. Now, in the light of this principle, what do we learn when comparing the characters of Protestant and Catholic people? Simply this: that each individual, Catholic or Protestant, is either **good or bad**, according as he **obeys** or **disobeys** Catholic principles. I have already shown that the fundamental Christian principles of Protestantism are Catholic, both in nature and in origin; and hence, when a Protestant is good, it is because he is following the principles which he has received from Catholicism.

No other institution on earth holds up a higher standard of **right** living than does the Catholic Church; and this is the test by which she asks to be judged. Oh, yes; there are both good and bad people in the Catholic Church, just as there are both good and bad in every other organization, but one thing is certain: it is absolutely impossible for any one to be a **good Catholic** without being a **good Christian.**

(To be continued.)

SERMONETTE.

(By Rev. Wm. Demouy, D. D.)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

"And He came into all the country about the Jordan, preaching the Baptism of penance for the remission of sins" (Luke III, 3).

For the correction and satisfaction of our misdeeds, penance is absolutely necessary. It is not enough that one feel he should do penance, nor to have the intention, but it must really be effected. Had it not been required for the satisfaction of sin, Christ could have offered Himself to His Heavenly Father to expiate for the sins of man, and He would not have been forced to undergo His bitter passion and cruel death. Penance, as the word implies, signifies the performance of something not pleasant to nature—sometimes even painful. It must be done contrary to our natural inclinations, but with the full persuasion that it is necessary—and with good will.

There are many things which we consider as penance imposed upon us, which, in truth, are not penances in the strict sense—such as the calamities, sufferings, ills, etc, of which we are sometimes a victim: This is so because, did we foresee these things, we would endevor to avoid them; when they are upon us, as a rule we accept them protestingly. True, they can be turned into penitential satisfactions, and by them we can do much to purge our lives of their impurities.

Ordinarily, people do not perform penance in proportion to their sins: That results not only from nature which urges otherwise, but also from a lack of sufficient and sound thought. The duty of each individual is to save his soul: this is to be done by himself. The things ruinous to this are sins; and sin, to some extent we commit every day. The only way to satisfy for sin, or its remains, is by penance: The conclusion will appear clear to everyone.

Christians should be conspicuous by their penitential lives: This is needful in a world that rushes on towards pleasure, never stopping to consider that all enjoyment and no penance spells ruin. Unless there be an element that carries out the words of Christ: "Do ye penance, for the kingdom of God is at hand," there will be no salvation for mankind.

TO OUR BEREAVED ONES.

By a Sister of the Precious Blood.

Oh, why should we think of our loved ones now gone
As though a great distance away?
They are much nearer us now than they were ever before,
For their spirits are with us always.
As Christians we know that where God is, in Heaven,
And if our departed are there,
Then surely they must be with their God even here,
For He is with us—Everywhere.

Oh, yes they are near though they're hidden from view;
They are back of the curtains of gold,
But they see us and we too shall see them again
When the angels those curtains unfold.
Then let us cease weeping and begrudge not the joy
They possess in their beautiful Home;
Let us rather rejoice that they're free from all care,
While in this valley of tears we still roam.

They can hear us and cheer us on life's rugged road,
Yes, they bid us take courage again
And make use of the time and the grace to us given,
If in glory with them we would reign.
Oh Joy! when the curtains are then drawn back,
And our loved ones we see—Oh, so near!
They'll greet us and meet us with extended arms,
And lead us to our Savior so dear.

If justice ruled each one's actions, there would not be so many social inequalities.

Bureau of Information

Questions are answered, as far as possible, in the order received; hence those who seek information through this Bureau must not become impatient if the answer to their queries does not appear for several weeks after we receive same.

Always direct questions to BUREAU OF INFORMATION or to DEPT Q. In separate envelopes. Questions should never be written on same sheet with subscriptions.

Will you kindly give an account of the life of St. Robert?

The Feast of St. Robert, Abbot of Molesme, is celebrated on the 21st day of April. St. Robert was born in Champagne about the year 1018. Being blessed with a virtuous and religious father, by name Theodoric, and possessing the greatest treasure, a noble, virtuous mother, Ermegarde by name, we find him even as a small boy attracted to the monastic life. At the age of fifteen he became a Benedictine monk and at an early age was elected to rule as Prior over the Abbey in which he lived. When he learned that there were a number of hermits who dwelt in the desert and these in turn having heard of his great sanctity, asked him to become their founder, he finally complied with their request. Having gathered his little band together, he brought them to the Forest of Molesme and it was here that they built little cells made of the boughs of trees, first of all building a small chapel in honor of the Most Holy Trinity. After some years spent in Molesme, he, in company with twenty disciples, settled in a trackless forest in a site which is at present known as Citeaux. It was here on the 21st day of March in the year 1098 that they first began their labors for the salvation of souls and for their own sanctification and it was on this day that the Cistercian Order was formed. Historians, treating of the life of St. Robert, tell us that he died in the year 1110 after a life of zeal in the service of God.

England claims St. Robert, who was a member of the Cistercian Order. A native of Yorkshire, he early in life showed signs of extraordinary piety and learning. Having been ordained to the priesthood, he was appointed as a rector to a parish in the Diocese of Yorkshire, but later became a member of the Cistercian Order. He was appointed Abbot of a monastery located at Newminster. His life is particularly notable for his almost continual prayer. It is said that he constantly prayed for those committed to his care and stormed Heaven in the interest of those who asked his holy prayers. He died on the 7th of June, 1159, after a life of sanctity and usefulness in the service of God and after the gift of miracles had been bestowed upon him by God, the Rewarder of purity and devotion.

Is it not a principle or custom of the Church that a young man and woman should not keep company longer than six months without the intention of marriage?

The Church is opposed to extended courtships because she sees an element of danger in the close intimacy that arises therefrom. She does not, however, specify any particular time during which company keeping should extend. Where a young man and woman are thoroughly acquainted with each other (and this should be the case since marriages often result in unhappiness because of lack of mutual understanding) there is really no need for a long-drawn-out courtship.

A non-Catholic friend, hearing a prayer recited in which the saints are called mediators, quoted St. Paul to this effect: "There is only one Mediator between God and man." He says that this Mediator is Jesus Christ and hence argues that we are wrong when we apply this title to the Saints.

The Catholic doctrine teaches that Jesus is the principal Mediator through Whom all other secondary mediators receive assistance. St. Paul said: "For there is one God and one Mediator of God and men, the Man Christ Jesus: Who gave Himself in redemption for all, a testimony in due time" (I Timothy II, 5-6). Christ was a Mediator (and the only Mediator) *by redemption*, as the text implies; the saints and our fellow-men are mediators *by intercession*. When St. Paul wrote these words, he did not intend to teach that there were no secondary mediators. He himself asks for the prayers of his spiritual children when he says: "I beseech you, therefore, brthren, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the charity of the Holy Ghost, that you assist me in your prayers for me to God." St. Paul would not have asked for the prayers of the Romans if he did not believe that the efficacy of their mediation would be advantageous to him. Moreover, in proof of the belief that man may be a secondary mediator, let us turn to the Book of Job, XLII, 8, where we read: "His face I will accept that folly be not imputed to you: for you have not spoken right things before Me as My servant Job hath." And again in the Book of Job we find reference to the angels as mediators in the following words: "If there shall be an angel speaking for him, one among thousands, to declare man's uprightness. He shall have mercy on him, and shall say: deliver him, that he may not go down to corruption: I have found wherein I may be merciful to him" (Job XXXIII, 23-24). These words taken from the Old Testament show conclusively that both angels and men can effectively intercede for others and that God will be pleased to listen to their prayers; while the New Testament, particularly the writings of St. Paul, most clearly show that God will listen to the prayers of man offered for man, else why ask them to pray for one another.

H. C. K.—Not if properly performed. Yes to other question.

Devotees of the Sacred Heart, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. Anthony, St. Rita and the Little Flower wish to publicly express their heartfelt thanks for favors received.

160 HENS—1500 EGGS

AS AMERICA'S foremost poultry expert I predict that eggs are going to retail for a dollar a dozen this winter. Right now the retail price is from 50c to 75c per dozen in some of the large cities. At a dollar a dozen poultry raisers are going to make tremendous egg profits. You, too, can make sure of a big egg yield by feeding your hens a few cents' worth of "More Eggs" tonic. This product has been tried, tested and proven. It is acknowledged the best and most successful egg producer on the market today. Every day that you don't use it means that you are losing money. Don't delay. Start with a few cents' worth of "More Eggs" tonic now.

Got 117 Eggs Instead of 3

That's the experience of one poultry raiser who wrote me. A. P. Woodard of St. Cloud, Fla., writes: "I get from 40 to 50 eggs a day now. Before using 'More Eggs' I was getting only 8 or 9 eggs a day." Here are the experiences of a few others of the hundreds who write me:

"160 Hens—125 Dozen Eggs"
R. J. Reefer: Waverly, Mo.
I have fed two boxes of More Eggs Tonic to my hens and I think my hens have broken the record for eggs. I have 160 White Leghorns and from March 15 to April 15 I sold 125 dozen eggs. MRS. H. M. PATTON.

"15 Hens—210 Eggs"
R. J. Reefer: Turner Falls, Mass.
I used your More Eggs Tonic and from December 1 to February 1, from 15 hens, I got 210 eggs. Your remedies are just what you claim. Gladly do. MRS. C. R. STOUGHTON.

"More Than Doubled In Eggs"
R. J. Reefer: Meeker, Ill.
I am very much pleased with your "More Eggs" Tonic. My hens have more than doubled up in their eggs. L. D. NICHOLS.

126 Eggs in 5 Days
R. J. Reefer: Salina, Okla.
I wouldn't try to raise chickens without "More Eggs," which means more money. I use it right along. I have 35 hens and in 5 days have gotten 126 dozen eggs or 126. MRS. J. O. OAKES.

"48 Dozen in One Week"
Dear Mr. Reefer: Woodbury, Tenn.
I can't express how much I have been benefited by answering your ads. I've got more eggs than I ever did. I've sold 47½ dozen eggs last week, and 4 dozen, are some and had 1½ dozen left.
From your friend, MRS. LENA McBROOM.

"Selling Eggs Now"
R. J. Reefer: Hebo, Oregon
I was not getting an egg when I began the use of the "More Eggs" Tonic. Now I am selling eggs. MRS. J. V. SHINE.

"Gets Winter Eggs"
R. J. Reefer: Wilmington, Kan.
It is the first time I got so many eggs in winter. When I began using "More Eggs" I was only getting from 1 to 5 eggs per day; now I am getting 11 to 13 eggs per day. MRS. JULIA GOODRICH.

18 Hens—12 Eggs a Day
R. J. Reefer: Luray, Va.
Six weeks ago I began giving "More Eggs" Tonic and I was not getting an egg from 18 hens, and now I am getting 12 to 13 every day. You can quote me as saying that it is the best chicken tonic in the world. R. L. REYNOLDS

"37 Eggs a Day"
R. J. Reefer: Howard, Indiana
I have been using More Tonic for about six weeks, and I am getting 37 eggs a day. EDGAR E. J. LINDSEY.

"Doubles Egg Production"
R. J. Reefer: Phoenix, Ariz.
I have been using More Tonic for about a month and am pleased to say it has doubled my egg production. J. C. BOHNER.

"Increase from 3 to 36 Eggs a Day"
R. J. Reefer: Boyd, Kansas
I am well pleased with your More Eggs Tonic. I was only getting 3 eggs a day, and now I am getting 36 eggs a day. MRS. ARNOLD.

"Increase from 2 to 45 Eggs a Day"
Reefer's Hatchery: Dallas, Texas
I have been using one box of your More Eggs Tonic and I was only getting 2 eggs a day, and now I am getting 45 eggs a day. I like your tonic. J. E. PHILLIPS.

More Eggs Makes Layers Out of Loafers!

This is a concentrated tonic, not a food. It consists of every element that goes toward the making of more eggs. A perfect regulator, aids digestion, stimulates egg production and builds firm bones and strong muscles. The foremost authorities in America and poultry raisers from every state endorse Reefer's "More Eggs" tonic.

Results Guaranteed!

Here is the facsimile of the guarantee of a million dollar bank that "More Eggs" will produce results. The million dollar bank guarantees to refund your money if you are not satisfied. You run no risk. So don't delay. Every day you wait you are losing money.

A Million Dollar Guarantee
Absolute Satisfaction or Money Back

National Bank of the Republic
CAPITAL $200,000.00
SURPLUS AND PROFITS $200,000.00
KANSAS CITY, MO.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
I hereby guarantee that Mr. Reefer will carry out his agreement ★ ★ ★ and this bank further agrees to return to the customer the total amount of his remittance, if Mr. Reefer fails to do as he agrees.
Very truly yours,
President.

Order Today

Send a dollar today for a full-sized package of "More Eggs" tonic, or better yet send $2.25 at extra special discount, and get three packages. Three packages is a full season's supply. Don't put it off. Order now and start your hens making money for you. Remember, you run no risk. A Million Dollar Bank will refund instantly if you are not entirely satisfied. If you don't order your More Eggs now at least mark on the coupon for Mr. Reefer to send you, ABSOLUTELY FREE, his valuable poultry book that tells the experience of a man who, himself, has made a fortune and is helping others to make money out of the poultry business. Act NOW. Don't wait. Fin a dollar bill to the coupon. Or send $2.25 which will guarantee your winter's egg supply. Send for this bank-guaranteed egg producer NOW. Today! It has helped thousands of others and will help you, too.

E. J. REEFER,
Reefer Bldg.,
Kansas City, Missouri

Send ... special discount price, with all ... prepaid, ... packages of ... Tonic. Send this with an ... Bank Guarantee that you will re- ... my money if this tonic is not satis- ... to me in every way.

WANT: If you don't want to try this Bank Guaranteed tonic, ... mail the coupon for my Free valuable poultry books FREE.

E. J. Reefer, 9089 Reefer Bldg., **Kansas City, Mo.**

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These mortgages are made on lands in the great wheat growing section of Montana.

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INTEREST REMITTED ON DUE DATE.

Write for lists of loans from $500.00 to $3500.00.

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The watch you always wanted. Strong as Steel. Keeps time, accurate as high priced watches. Also watches on credit. Write for free catalog. Ingersoll Watch Co., Dept. 121, Chicago, Ill.

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I am Chief Engineer of the great Chicago Engineering Works. I am in close official touch with the electrical world. I know how badly we need trained electricians who can take charge of important work as experts. Right now there is such a need for executive electricians that I am making a special effort to help meet the demand. I am publishing this special announcement to secure a certain number of ambitious men whom I will personally train by mail for the wonderful opportunities that are open.

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Absolutely free. Not a penny cost to you now or later. To those who act at once I will give a wonderful set of Electrical Equipment with my compliments. Write me at once. I have only a limited number of sets to be given free. Drop me a post card or letter.

Write! You will have to act quick to get in on this opportunity. Write me today for full particulars. Drop me a post card. Write Now.

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Our 1919 Calendar, bearing picture of the Sacred Heart of Mary will be very beautiful. Place your order now for December delivery

Postpaid, 30 cents.

Our Sunday Visitor,
Huntington, Indiana.

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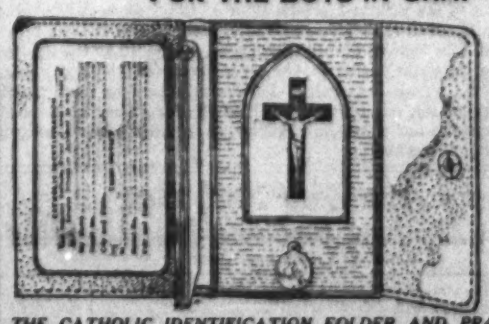

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THE CATHOLIC IDENTIFICATION FOLDER AND PRAYER BOOK.
Approved By His Eminence Cardinal Farley.

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NO. 55—GENUINE BLACK LEATHER, with snap button clasp. It contains a Happy Death Crucifix, with gilt figure and purple silk background. A silk Scapular Medal and a 16-page PRAYER BOOK. Identification with space for owner's name and address. A request to notify a Catholic priest immediately in case of serious illness or accident, also name and address of person to be notified at home. The prayer book contains in addition to the daily prayers, instructions for assisting the dying for Catholics and non-Catholics when no Priest can be procured, also an Indulgenced Prayer to be said before a Crucifix. The Medal and Crucifix when blessed impart to the owner an Indulgence at the HOUR OF DEATH.

Same Folder in KHAKI TAN LEATHER, POSTPAID, 60c.

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OUR SUNDAY VISITOR

Issued Weekly by
OUR SUNDAY VISITOR
Huntington, Indiana

REV. JOHN F. NOLL, LL.D., Editor
Rev. R. E. Kelly, Associate Editor

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HUNTINGTON, INDIANA, DECEMBER 22, 1918.

Dearly Beloved Son: Health and Apostolic Benediction! There are two things which, among others, commend to us the Catholic paper Our Sunday Visitor, in selling which you have for many years entirely devoted yourself; the first is the task proposed by you so to spread and explain Catholic doctrine that you might attach Catholics more closely to it, and that you might win over non-Catholics; and secondly, the highly commendatory testimony which we are told this same paper received from Our Predecessor of happy memory, Pius X, and also from other personages of high and indisputable authority.

The one shows you to be a good dispenser of God's mysteries, the other proves that in pursuing this holy undertaking you are following the right path and are laboring with abundant fruit.

Why, therefore, to the praises you have already received should not also be added Our commendation? Indeed, it pleases us to do so in order, if need be, to encourage you in the race you are running. We bestow upon you the Apostolic Benediction to strengthen by the help of Divine grace your ardent zeal and those whom you have as helpers in this work.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, the eleventh day of March, 1917, the third year of Our Pontificate. BENEDICT XV, Pope.

Apostolic Delegation, 1911 Biltmore St., Washington, D. C., April 27, 1912.

The nature of your work tends to supply, in a popular and practical way, the religious needs of both the Catholics and non-Catholics.

With pleasure I congratulate you on this good work and express my hopes that your success will continue to increase.

With best wishes I am, sincerely yours in Xto.,
✠ JOHN BONZANO, Archbishop of Mellitene, Apostolic Delegate.

Dear Rev. Father: Fort Wayne, Indiana, March 29, 1912.

Your work of bringing home to our people the better knowledge of the teachings of the Church, and of informing non-Catholics of the claims of Holy Mother Church, is truly an apostolic work, worthy of the highest commendation and encouragement.

To furnish a weekly paper, for an annual subscription of 50c, appears to me to be most remarkable.

Devotedly yours in Domino,
✠ H. J. ALERDING, Bishop of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Your regular **Sunday Visitor**, now your **Yuletide Visitor** wishes you not only a Merry Christmas, but one replete with heavenly blessings.

—o—

Show your "good will" in order to come into the possession of Christmas Peace. Prepare for a good confession and Holy Communion; make your loving Savior a present of a heart filled with sorrow, a determination to live virtuously and to love Him above all else in the world.

—o—

WHAT CHRISTMAS COMMEMORATES.

The event chronicled by St. Luke in the Gospel of the first Mass on Christmas was the most wonderful ever enacted in this world. The Christian poet, the Christian artist, the Christian orator have ever been at their best when dealing with that great mystery, but neither pen, nor brush, nor human eloquence have ever been adequate to portray it.

Joseph and Mary, unknown to the world, but enamored of Heaven; Joseph and Mary, seeking in vain for shelter, while themselves sheltering the God Who made them; the providential arrangement of the time and occasion and place; the wretchedness of the wayside stable; the cold night; the miraculous star; the angels' heavenly voices; the supernatural light; the solemnity of it all, yet the fewness of witnesses—these circumstances attending an unimaginable event make it impossible of true description.

All that we can do is to imitate the shepherds and wonder "at this word which has come to pass", and, like them, to answer the summons to come over and adore Him—Heaven's God made flesh, Who as an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, lies in a manger.

Heaven and earth are reconciled after thousands of years of separation: the Almighty had hitherto received but little honor from His children, and the world had known little of peace.

In the beginning, God made man to His own image; in the Incarnation the reverse takes place: God adopts man's image. In the beginning Satan's tempting suggestion was "you shall be like gods"; in the Incarnation, God becomes like us; in the beginning, man in his pride wished to be equal to God; in the Incarnation, the Son of God, Who was equal to the Father, condescended to become an equal of man.

Today Heaven's angels sing for the first time on earth; today the fallen angels in hell experience their first confusion.

On Christmas morning Heaven must smile on this scene: The Pope in the Sistine Chapel, 1200 bishops, nearly 200,000 priests will be at the altar with one thought, that of glorifying God and praying for peace for man. The event will be commemorated in stately cathedrals and in log chapels; in our own far west; in the islands of the Pacific; in the wilds of Africa, on battleships, on old battlefields, in prisons. Fully 300,000,000 followers of Christ will be on their knees in church, and 100,000,000 will embrace Him in Holy Communion. The Incarnation will be re-enacted on 100,000 altars.

If there existed no other proof of the divinity of Bethlehem's Babe, this one would be all-sufficient; if there existed no other proof of the truth of the Catholic religion, this one alone would suffice.

—o—

Priests, secretaries of organizations, and other laymen who order one hundred and more copies of OUR SUNDAY VISITOR each week, in the following states, should "pay up" this month:

Alabama	Montana	Pennsylvania
Arkansas	Maine	Ohio
Arizona	Massachusetts	Oregon
California	Mississippi	Oklahoma
Colorado	Rhode Island	South Carolina
Connecticut	Wyoming	South Dakota
Delaware	Canal Zone	Texas
Florida	Utah	Tennessee
Georgia	New Hampshire	Virginia
Kentucky	New Mexico	Vermont
Kansas	Nebraska	West Virginia
Louisiana	North Dakota	Washington
Maryland	North Carolina	Washington, D. C.

A WORD TO THE WISE

By Rev. Joseph Husslein, Associate Editor of AMERICA

CHILDREN FOR THE SWEET CHRIST CHILD.

"Rev. and Dear Father: Your little apostles of the Infant Jesus in the Sacred Heart School are extremely happy to be able to send you for the poor pagan children a bank draft for $144.00."

So began a letter to the National Director of the Holy Childhood, addressed to him from Columbus, Ohio, by a group of ardent youthful missionaries. Another letter opens thus:

"Rev. and Dear Father: The enclosed $50.00 is from your devoted little friends, the children of St. Leo's School, for the purchase of ten heathen babies, who are in a dying condition, so that they will on entering Heaven pray for our school and parish." That letter was soon followed by another $150.00. They were taking Heaven by storm.

Delightful, too, is the spirit breathing through the following note from a lady in St. Louis, that came with a substantial donation: "I collected it," she writes of her gift, "from the men and women, Catholics and Protestants, in the laundry where I work. It is all for the heathen children cared for by the Holy Childhood."

The above are but a few examples culled from a single issue of the Annals of the Holy Childhood. Offerings of many kinds, great and small, may be found recorded there, most of them gathered penny by penny, until five whole dollars had been saved and begged and scraped together for the purchase of a pagan child. All this in love for the sweet Christ Child that came on Christmas night to save the poor abandoned heathen children as well as our own.

At our country's entrance into the war a soldier boy sent to the writer of these lines a full month's salary for the purchase of as many pagan babies as the money was able to buy. They were all to bear the name of "Mary," with whatever other names of Apostles and Saints that were to be bestowed upon them.

Particularly beautiful is the practice of parents buying for each of their children a little pagan boy or girl who will be called by the names of their own children and will in future pray for them.

In what more tender way than by helping to procure the inestimable gift of Holy Baptism for a castaway pagan child can we show our love for the departed, or win graces for the living, or have our own names inscribed in the Heart of Christ among those who have not forgotten Him in His little ones!

At the radiant cribs that adorn our churches and at the little shrines beneath our Christmas trees we can honor the image of the dear Christ Child, but whatever we do to the least of His brethren is a service done to Christ Himself, to that very Babe of Bethlehem Whom Mary folded in her arms on the first of all Christmas nights.

Earth's Greatest Woman by Virtue of Her Motherhood

A WRITER has said of Mary, the Virgin-Mother: "She wrote no books; she painted no pictures; she thrilled no audience with her eloquence; she inaugurated no great reform. She spent her life in none of the brilliant spheres for which many of our girls sigh today. She simply lulled a little babe on her breast; she pressed its face close to her mother-heart; she went about her household duties there in a Nazarene kitchen; she filled her water pitchers at the well, lighted her fires, and prepared her frugal meals, unwaited upon, unattended by any, save the angels that hovered unseen. Yet through all ages past, and throughout all ages to come, her name is, and will ever remain, the most blessed among women.

"Artists may paint, writers may write, singers may sing, right on to the end of time, but none can ever hope to rival in unending love and reverence the wife of a humble carpenter of Galilee. They are all but as earth's tiniest candle to heaven's brightest star. Earth's greatest woman was great by virtue of her motherhood.

"A maiden of Judea went up so close to the throne of God; she kept the chamber of her heart so pure that the Lord of Hosts entered in, and laid upon her breast the Savior of men. Earth has nothing greater than the loving devotion of a woman who is pure in heart. We need Marys from Nazareth still; we need them everywhere. Let our girls aspire, by all means. Let them be ambitious, but let them not forget amid life's fevered rush to sit often at the feet of the Master, to learn His touch, to get the 'Madonna's secret.'"

Readers Speak to Readers

Dear Readers:

You undoubtedly will see to it that the members of your immediate family, your relatives and your close friends receive from you a token of esteem on Christmas day. And that is only proper. When the Christmas spirit permeates the air and pervades your very being, what more pleasure can one ask for than to be able to give ungrudgingly—to spread the joy of Christmastide and enter with willing heart into the joyous occasion? Truly at Christmastime there is more real charity in our hearts than at any other time in the year, and in consequence, we feel and act nearer to the way He desires us to feel and act. There is every reason why we should be happier and more charitable at and during the advent of the anniversary of His nativity.

But are we doing full justice to this great occasion of giving and rejoicing if we neglect to consider in the joyousness of giving our close spiritual friend and adviser, Holy Mother the Church? How many of us in making up our lists to whom we shall make gifts have included the Church? Most relatives and friends should undoubtedly not be forgotten—and will not be—but we cannot get out of the Christmas season the real, deep joy it was intended we should get if we fail to remember our uncomplaining, needy and ever-patient friend and counsellor, Holy Mother Church.

It is to be hoped that we shall at once include in our lists, if we have not already done so, the name of our church. We can at least strike an average of all the gifts to be given and allow her that much, if not a little more. Let us awake from our lethargy and always place our church among our choice friends—a friend who is always true and willing to listen to and assuage our griefs and afflictions.

WM. H. STANTON,
A lay reader.

"If I were to attempt to prove the divinity of Christ, instead of beginning with mystery or miracle or the theory of the atonement, I should simply tell you the story of His life and how He lived and what He said and how He died, and then I would ask you to explain it by any other theory than that He was divine. Reared in a carpenter's shop, having no access to the wisdom of the other races and people, He yet, when about thirty years of age, gave to the world a code of morality, the like of which the world has never seen since. Then He was put to death. He was nailed to the cross in shame and those who followed Him were scattered. And then, from this little beginning His religion spread until hundreds of millions have taken His name upon their lips, and millions have been ready to die rather than surrender the faith that He put into their hearts. To me it is easier to believe Him divine than to explain in any other way what He said and did."—W. J. Bryan.

A CONVERT'S LOVE OF MARY

A. M. D. G.

To the Greater Glory of God! How? Through Mary!

Will it be altogether useless for a convert to say a few words about that good mother of ours?

What does a convert find in Mary? All that is best in the best of Mothers, and almost infinitely MORE—ALMOST infinitely, because God alone is infinite.

Picture a child, alone in the world, longing for home, and you have the state of those who know not Mary Our Mother and Queen.

Look again, and see that child, when it has found the Mother, and the home it is longing for and you have a faint idea of the convert's feelings concerning Mary.

God pity those who know not Mary's assistance, for truly bleak and barren is their life, even as a child bereft.

And what is our duty towards these who know her not?

Let Mary answer—"Behold—all generations shall call me blessed." And our part is to help others know Her better, and love Her more.

E'en though it be but childlike to say the Hail Mary, let us do that much for our Queen, Who obtains for us all the graces we can ever have—let us honor that best of Mothers.

Faithfully yours in St. Dominic,
H. X. D. BARTON-HART,
R. No. 1, Pittsford, Vermont.

MEN—WOMEN—WANTED
$100 to $150 MONTH

Everyone should try the U. S. Government examinations constantly being held throughout the entire country. Thousands of permanent positions are to be filled at from $1100 to $1800; have short hours and annual vacations, with full pay. Those interested should write immediately to Franklin Institute, Dept. A179, Rochester, N. Y., for schedule showing all examination dates and places and large descriptive book, showing the positions open and giving many sample examination questions, which will be sent free of charge.

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"BOBBY WHAT'S-HIS-NAME," a three-act comedy-drama written especially for amateurs. Characters required: three female, one adult male, three boys. Play tried out with success before published. All "business" written out in detail. Send 25c for a copy to THE NELFELD PLAY CO., Dept. A, EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS.

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Beautiful large size imitation cut stone beads, mounted on heavy gold plated chain, with gold plated sacular medal center and large fancy cross. Decade beads, —choice of amethyst, garnet, topaz, crystal, emerald beads, in most every bead.

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No.		
204	Small Beads, 15 in. long	Each $1.50
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206	Small Beads, 15 inches long	$2.50
207	Large Beads, 17 inches long	$3.00
	With new design of fancy Cross and Heart. Very artistic. Something entirely new. Warranted to wear twenty years.	
208	Large Beads, 17 inches long	$4.00
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FAMILY HAND BOOK
By R. Willman, M. D.

This is the title of a text book just issued which is to supply a long-felt want.

It treats on the fundamentals of the human race; questions of vital interest to those contemplating the married state, and things that are conducive to comfort, to health, and well-being of the married and their offspring; including a well regulated treatise on ordinary diseases that are met with in family life; especially written for the laity.

In a word, it is a Cyclopedia of knowledge of vital interest to the married, especially to parents.

They cannot afford to be without this book.

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Affiliated with the Catholic University of America, the University of Cincinnati and accredited by the State Normal.

Located near Batesville Station, on the Big Four, midway between Cincinnati and Indianapolis.

COURSES:—Intermediate, Commercial, Academic, Music and Art.

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For particulars, address
THE SISTER DIRECTRESS
(When writing mention this paper

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OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY, OF THE DIOCESE OF DES MOINES, DES MOINES, IOWA

Are in need of Vocations in their work. They have one of the largest and best equipped Hospitals in the Middle West. Also contemplate teaching. Young Ladies who feel called to serve God in this work of Charity may apply to the MOTHER SUPERIOR, MERCY HOSPITAL, DES MOINES, IOWA.

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WANTED

At once: two office clerks. Only Catholic men or young men will be considered. Besides English, a fair knowledge of German and typewriting required. Board at Institution. Send papers and terms to
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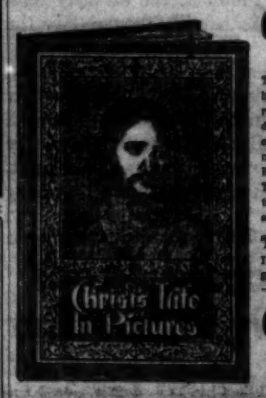

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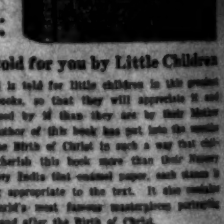

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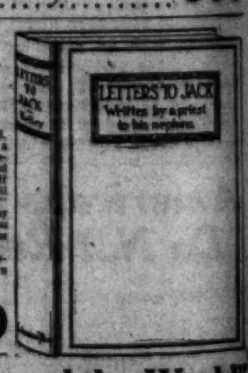

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